



Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 4/15/2003

GAIN Report #CH3036

China, Peoples Republic of
FAIRS Product Specific
MRL Mercury in Foods - DRAFT FOR COMMENTS
2003

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Report Highlights:

This is an UNOFFICIAL translation of the People's Republic of China DRAFT Standard for Mercury in Foods and should be used as a guide only. Exporters should carefully discuss regulations and their application with Chinese importers to ensure that their interpretation is accurate.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1], CH

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Beijing, People's Republic of China for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products and paid for by the US Codex Office. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Introduction

The People's Republic of China Ministry of Health (MOH) published DRAFT versions of several National Standards in August 2002 on the MOH website (www.moh.gov.cn). This document is an UNOFFICIAL translation of a National Standard that appeared on that website.

The MOH has not published a final version to this DRAFT therefore, the previous standard is still valid. National Standards that are abbreviated 'GB' and issued by MOH are compulsory standards that both China's domestic goods and goods imported into China must satisfy. MOH standards abbreviated 'GB/T' are voluntary.

At this time, U.S. industry and government officials are invited to offer comments on the DRAFTED National Standard. Questions and comments should be submitted to the USDA FAS International Trade Policy Office of Food Safety and Technical Services by fax (202-690-0677) or by email "ofsts@fas.usda.gov" and "roseanne.freese@usda.gov". Individuals/organizations offering comments are requested to 'cc' the U.S. Embassy Office of Agricultural Affairs by fax (86-10-6532-2962) or by email "AgBeijing@fas.usda.gov".

Once finalized, the Standard will replace GB2762-94, Maximum Levels of Mercury in Foods

Items noted in the DRAFT for Maximum Levels of Mercury in Foods

BEGIN TRANSLATION

This standard adopted but is not equivalent to the standard CAC/GL7-1991 "Guideline Levels for Methyl Mercury in Fish, section 6.2" of Codex Alimentary Commission (CAC).

Comparing this Standard with GB2762-94, the main modifications are as follows:

- According to CAC/GL 7-1991, the maximum levels for fish was modified as calculated in methyl mercury;
- Two maximum levels for ordinary fish and meat fish were set respectively
- The total maximum levels for mercury in fish were abrogated.

Standard of Maximum Levels of Mercury in Food

1. Scope

This standard specifies a total maximum level of mercury in food and the maximum level index of methyl mercury in aquatic products. This standard applies to grain, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs, milk and aquatic products.

2. Documents Cited by this Standard

The clauses in the following documents that were cited by this Standard became clauses of this Standard. For cited documents with a date, all their subsequent modifications or revisions do not apply to this Standard. However, parties having reached an agreement based on cited standards with a date are encouraged to study whether the latest versions of the cited documents with a date are applicable. For cited documents without a date, the latest versions apply to this Standard.

GB/T 5009.17 Determination of the Total Amount of Mercury and Organic Mercury in Food.

3. Technical Requirements

The maximum level index of mercury in food shall meet the regulations in Table 1.

Table 1 Maximum Level Index of Mercury in Food

Items	Maximum Level (MLs), mg/kg	
	Total Amount of Mercury (in hg)	Methyl Mercury
Grain (finished grain products)	0.02	
Potatoes (including sweet potato), vegetables, and fruits	0.01	
Fresh milk	0.01	
Meat and eggs (with shell removed)	0.05	
Fish (meat fish not included) and other aquatic products		0.5
Meat fish (e.g. shark, tuna, and others)		1.0

4. Inspection Methods

Determined in accordance with methods specified in GB/T 5009.17

END TRANSLATION